



For Release: Thursday, March 14, 2019

19-455-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

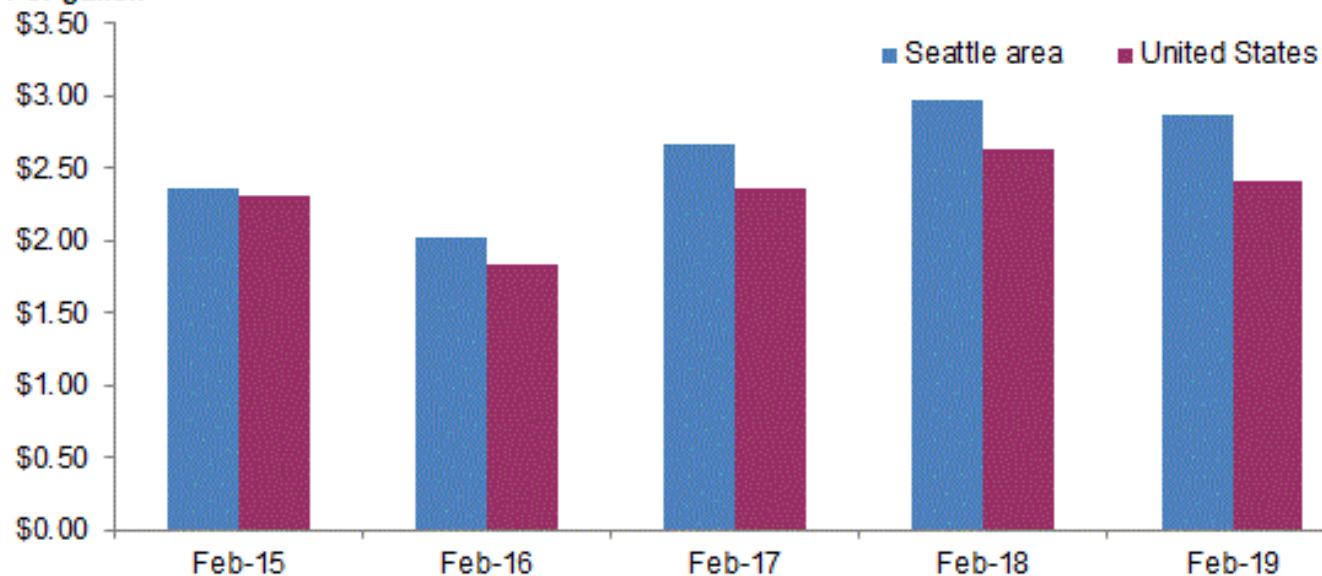
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue – February 2019

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.859 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area in February 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were down 11.5 cents compared to last February when they averaged \$2.974 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 11.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in February 2019, similar to the 11.1 cents per kWh paid in February 2018. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$0.987 per therm in February was less than the \$1.078 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.859 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 18.5 percent more than the \$2.412 national average in February 2019. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 13.0 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 18.5 percent of the national average in the month of February during the past five years. (See [chart 1](#).)

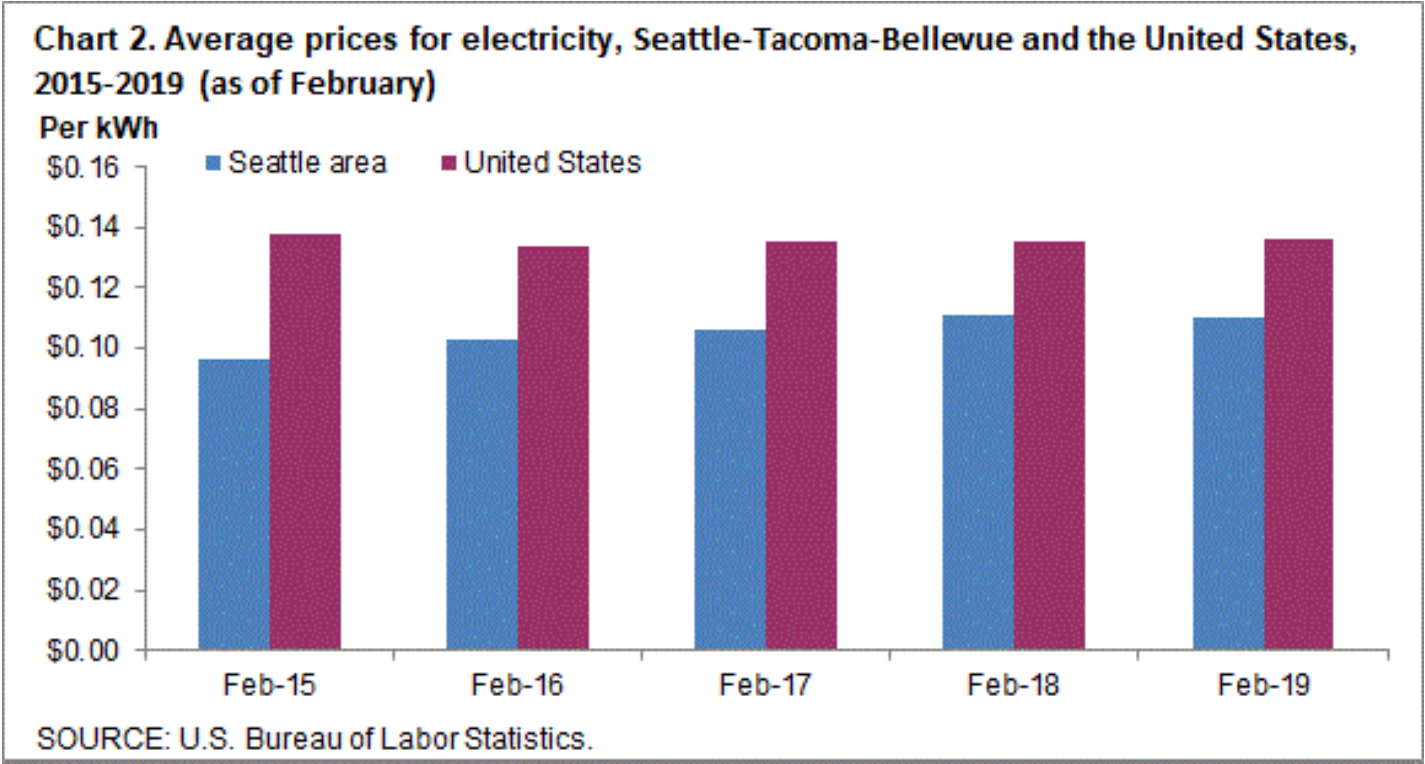
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue and the United States, 2015-2019 (as of February)

Per gallon

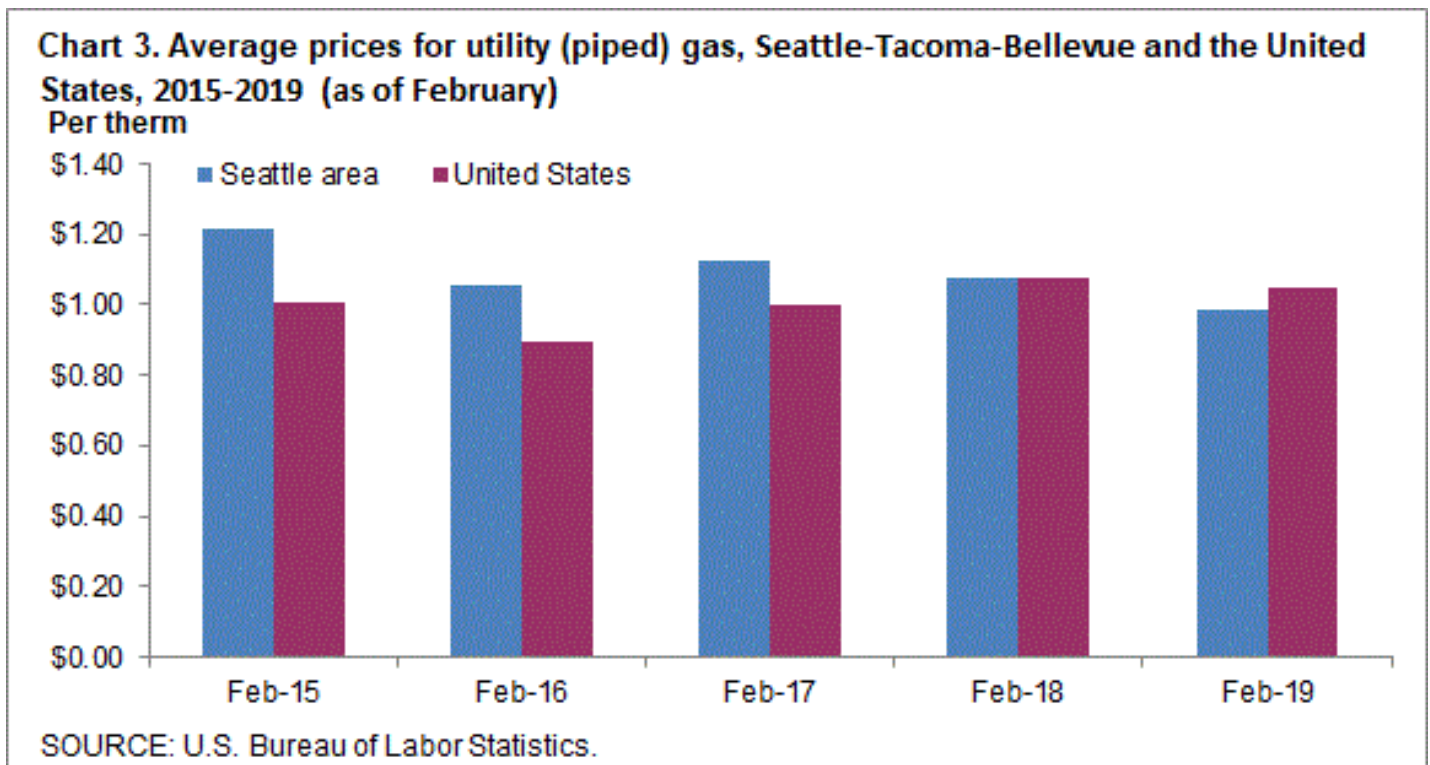


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 11.0 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in February 2019 was 19.1 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last February, electricity costs were 17.8 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of February, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 17.8 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$0.987 per therm, 6.1 percent lower than the national average in February 2019 (\$1.051 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 0.1 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in February in the Seattle area has varied between 6.1 percent below and 20.8 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. metropolitan area consists of King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties of Washington.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue and the United States, February 2018-February 2019, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States
2018						
February	\$2.974	\$2.632	\$0.111	\$0.135	\$1.078	\$1.077
March	3.023	2.631	0.111	0.135	1.078	1.054
April	3.197	2.795	0.114	0.134	1.078	1.044
May	3.346	2.963	0.111	0.136	1.086	1.050
June	3.379	2.970	0.111	0.139	1.086	1.042
July	3.311	2.930	0.111	0.139	1.086	1.038
August	3.221	2.919	0.111	0.139	1.083	1.055
September	3.248	2.930	0.111	0.138	1.083	1.030
October	3.406	2.945	0.108	0.136	1.081	1.023
November	3.374	2.733	0.108	0.134	0.983	1.020
December	3.143	2.479	0.108	0.135	0.983	1.085
2019						
January	2.940	2.352	0.110	0.135	0.987	1.082
February	2.859	2.412	0.110	0.136	0.987	1.051